

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1242

By Cobb

A RESOLUTION to honor J.T. and Marianne Leech upon the occasion of their induction into the Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration Hall of Fame.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those remarkable professionals who have rendered valuable service to the Tennessee Walking Horse industry, one of the Volunteer State's largest and most successful enterprises in terms of agriculture, commerce, tourism, and equine sports; and

WHEREAS, the Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration is the premier event for the Tennessee Walking Horse; spanning eleven days and nights prior to Labor Day and encompassing exciting competition, the Celebration annually awards more than \$650,000 in prize money and crowns the breed's World Grand Champion and some twenty World Champions; and

WHEREAS, on May 26, 2004, the Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration (TWHNC) will be inducting thirteen worthy people into the TWHNC Hall of Fame during a gala evening at Calsonic Arena on the Celebration grounds in Shelbyville, Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, the TWHNC Hall of Fame ceremony is held biennially to specially honor and recognize those sterling professionals who "have made significant and outstanding contributions to the Walking Horse industry and the Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration" during "fifteen or more years involvement with the breed"; and

WHEREAS, the exemplary 2004 class of TWHNC Hall of Fame inductees most appropriately includes J.T. and Marianne Leech, whose legacy as trainers in the Walking Horse industry is one of great magnitude; and

WHEREAS, hailing from Belvidere, Tennessee, J.T. and Marianne Leech represent that most rare of horse training teams, the husband and wife tandem; and

WHEREAS, J.T. Leech began his career in horse training with the American Saddlebred industry, but he quickly, and may we say wisely, shifted his allegiance and his considerable talents to the Tennessee Walking Horse after meeting Marianne; and

WHEREAS, the Leeches' partnerships in life and business combined to distinguish them as one of the most powerful couples in the Walking Horse industry in the 1950s and 1960s and beyond; and

WHEREAS, in addition to producing many of the top contenders in the Celebration for the past several decades, J.T. and Marianne Leech have helped develop the equestrian skills of several of the best amateur and professional riders in the industry today; and

WHEREAS, by means of induction into the TWHNC Hall of Fame, J.T. and Marianne Leech have earned the ultimate accolade given by the Walking Horse industry, and they should be specially recognized on this very special occasion; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and congratulate J.T. and Marianne Leech upon their induction into the Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration Hall of Fame, commend them for their meritorious service to the Walking Horse industry and the State of Tennessee, and extend to them our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.